FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat's Activities — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left the YAR for Tunis, where he will chair PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee meetings, INA announced citing a responsible Palestinian source. Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the agency that 'Arafat would visit Saudi Arabia en route to Tunis, while AFP cited an official source in Tunis who reported that 'Arafat would arrive there on 30 December.

Reacting to reports that the PLO Higher Military Council met in San'a', an As-Sa'iqah spokesman cited by Damascus radio stated that the meeting was not of the Military Council but rather between 'Arafat and "his clique of deviates." Because none of the Palestinian dissident groups attended, the meeting lacked a quorum and was therefore "unlawful," the spokesman warned, adding that all who attended must "appear before the legitimate Palestinian institutions" to account for their "crimes" against the Palestinian people and revolution.

Al-Yarmuk Camp — The Al-Yarmuk refugee camp near Damascus is surrounded and besieged by "mechanized Syrian forces and organs of the Syrian intelligence and public security" which waged an "intensive search and arrest campaign" in the wake of demonstrations in support of 'Arafat, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Israel

Egyptian Talks — Egypt has asked Israel to allow members of the PNC who reside in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to attend the expected PNC session, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which maintained that this was one of the main topics Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid discussed during his visit to Israel. Though not linking it to 'Abd al-Hamid's visit, Jerusalem television asserted that the request is "actually asking Israel to help Yasir 'Arafat to ensure a majority for himself within the PLO," adding that "it is clear" Israel will reject the idea outright. Meanwhile, the Egyptian diplomat met with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The latter affirmed that Israel is prepared to resume autonomy talks including Jordanian and Palestinian representatives, though not 'Arafat or the PLO, Jerusalem radio said.

Bombings — Hand grenades exploded in two mosques in Hebron on 30 December injuring a watchman, IDF Radio announced. An anonymous telephone caller claimed that the two attacks were carried out by the "Terror Against Terror" group and that there would be more attacks on the West Bank, the radio added. Jerusalem radio reported that another anonymous caller claimed that the bombers were inhabitants of Qiryat Arba'.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan called for the reactivation of the Israeli-Lebanese liaison committee and asked it to "hold the Israelis responsible" for events in the south and for "aggravating the situation there" in remarks reported by Beirut radio. Al-Wazzan also urged Foreign Minister Elie Salim to "hold urgent contacts with the responsible international quarters concerned" and the United Nations to inform them of what is happening in the south and stressed the need to curb Israel's "repressive measures" against citizens in the area it controls.

The Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland and the head of Lebanese military intelligence met in Damascus with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt on behalf of President Amin al-Jumayyil and held intensive talks on the security situation and the means for implementing the cease-fire, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio cited sources close to the delegation as stating that the talks were held in a "positive atmosphere." On the other hand, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported Junblatt's "misgivings" about the chances for achieving tangible results from the talks, citing his contention that the recent incidents in Beirut indicate the difficulty of holding a dialogue with the Lebanese Government.

Jordan

Assassination — One employee of the Jordanian Embassy in Madrid was killed and another wounded when an unidentified gunman opened fire on their car as they were leaving the embassy, a responsible source in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry cited by Amman radio announced. The source stressed that the perpetrators of the attack will be "duly punished."

The "Arab Revolutionary Brigade" claimed responsibility in an anonymous telephone call to AFP, stating that the attack took place because the Jordanian regime is "determined" to involve its Armed Forces in "rapid intervention forces," to negotiate with Israel, to support "the rotten 'Arafat clique," and to incarcerate "nationalist fighters." Madrid radio said Spanish police are "considering the theory" that the assailant, who escaped after the attack, is a member of the extremist Palestinian organization headed by Sabri al-Banna, also known as Abu Nidal.

Iran

In the wake of the bombings in Kuwait, 23 Iranians deported from the country arrived in Iran on 29 December, according to IRNA, which also cited the deportees on imprisonment and torture at the hands of the Kuwaiti police. Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that the Kuwaiti Government turned more than 4,500 "Muslim Iraqis" over to the Iraqi regime following an Iraqi request that the GCC member-states hand over 12,000 "under the pretext that they are wanted by this regime."

In an unattributed commentary the same service warned Kuwait that the arrest of a single Muslim, "whatever his nationality or sect, is tantamount to a declaration of war" and noted that "reason and self-interest make it necessary" for Kuwait to change its stands.

Kuwait

In a press statement published by *AL-ANBA'* and reported by KUNA, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the bombings early in December were primarily aimed at Kuwait's security and economy and that the attacks against the U.S. and French Embassies appear to have been "peripheral action." On the Iranian media's treatment of Kuwait, Husayn explained that Kuwaiti practice is not to respond to "such attacks" because they are "without foundation."

Iraq

Chief of Staff Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal was appointed minister of state for military affairs by a republican decree reported by INA.

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Karmal Chairs PDPA Central Committee Meeting

LD292333 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held on 28 December chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The session carefully and broadly discussed a series of issues relating to the internal life of the party and the improvement of governmental affairs, especially in the provinces and districts of the country. The Politburo passed specific measures on the organizational work of the party for the progress of the primary party organization in the villages and residential areas. The measures will play an important role for the political awareness of the peasants and other toilers of the villages and the organization of the best and most aware representatives of the peasants, toilers, and citizens of the cities.

The resolution of the Politburo instructs party organizations to broaden work among the peasants and other toilers in order to attract them toward the revolution and the intensification of struggle against counterrevolutionaries.

Babrak Karmal said that the creation and broadening of the primary party organizations' network in the villages and residential areas will strengthen the links of the party with the masses of the people. The party must work and serve the people and work to defend their interests and life.

Babrak Karmal said: The party organizations must eliminate this shortcoming as soon as possible for the expansion of the primary party organizations in the villages. Tested and leading experience and principled directives of work in this field must be followed and implemented. However, during work with the people, their characteristics, customs, traditions, and beliefs must be respected. One should not fear difficulties at work and grasp the ability of working with masses of the people with tolerance and perseverance, finding a common language with them.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo aproved an important document about broadening ideological and political activities of the party and raising the level of the people's political awareness with the militant spirit of nonreconciliation with the counterrevolutionaires. In this resolution, the methods of work among the broad masses of the people are specified in order to mobilize them and combat evil and false accusations, treacherous propaganda, fabrications, blackmail, intimidation, terror, strangulation, and spiritual pressure — all of which are being carried out by the enemy.

Babrak Karmal said that the party must better organize systematic ideological and political work among the masses. Party members, while improving their ideological knowledge and political maturity, must endeavor to defend the stand and interest of the working class and toilers of he country; mobilize the people with the spirit of faithfulness to the objectives of the Sawr revolution and nonreconciliability with the enemy's ideology; struggle against the poisonous propaganda and subversion of the counterrevolutionary forces in the homeland; and struggle against reaction and imperialism, which are (?endangering) peace and intensifying tension in the world. The party must regularly assist the people with the [word indistinct] propaganda and popularization work so they can see more clearly the evil face of their enemies: imperialism, reaction, and their servants — that is, the counterrevolutionaries.

Babrak Karmal emphasized that the duty of all members of the party, political and government organs, and mass media of the country is to give a positive answer to the demands of the present political circumstances of the countryand always reject and neutralize the hostile propaganda of imperialists and counterrevolutionaries.

At this session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, the activities of the headquarters of zones, provinces, major districts, districts, and subdistricts of the country, in relation to the consolidation of the government power in local areas, were considered and extensively discussed. In considering this important issue, Babrak Karmal issued instructions that continuous and satisfactory harmony between all party and government organs located in the provinces and regions of the country, as well as between the party and government officias, must be secured and consolidated. Methodical instructions for enhancing the effectiveness of the headquarters' work must be organized and implemented. On the instructions of Babrak Karmal, the Politburo passed a resolution and a provision that determines the main phases of the headquarters' work regarding the consolidation of the government authority in the local areas.

In order to continue and improve work for the realization of the objectives of the party and the revolutionary government, a specific plan of work was approved by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo about the consolidation of the government authority in the local areas. Babrak Karmal emphasized this, the attraction of the broad mas of the people to cooperate for the consolidation of the toilers' revolutionary authority, giving material and technical assistance to the people, and restoration and reconstruciton of public utility installations, which are very important for the people.

At this session of the Politburo, a number of other domestic and international issues were also discussed.

DRA-USSR Trade Agreement Signed in Moscow

LD292321 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Goods worth $800 million are to be exchanged in 1984 between the DRA and the USSR in accordance with the protocol concluded in Moscow betwen the authorities of the two countries. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce, who headed the DRA delegation to the USSR, told the BAKHTAR correspondent today that in the protocol a 15-percent increase is envisaged in the volume of exchange of goods between the two countries in comparison to the past year.

On this trip the minister of commerce held useful talks with Soviet authorities on further broadening cooperation in the field of commerce and economy between the two countries. He also signed documents relating to the consumer goods grant-in-aid by the USSR to the DRA.

Kabul Notes Arrest of Counterrevolutionaries

LD292014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] A number of the counterrevolutionary elements were crushed during the past week in some of the country's provinces by the officers and heroic men of the Armed Forces, Sarandoy, and party activists with earnest and direct cooperation of the people.

A 40-man group of these criminals along with their ringleader, Abdol Ra'of, were arrested in Balkh district of Balkh Province. BAKHTAR correspondents, quoting the spokesman of the security forces, report that the counterrevolutionaries with their ringleaders, Ma'ilem Qyum and Mokhtar Khowaja, were crushed in (Char Sang) and (Samar-Qandiyan) villages of Balkh district, Balkh Province. Another group of rebels was crushed in Engel district, Herat Province, and Khanabad district, Ahangaran and Achin villages, Qonduz Province.

The reports add that 72 various weapons, 5 rocket launchers, 23 antitank mines, 20 hand grenades, and more than 9,000 rounds of ammunition with a mortar were seized from these traitors to the homeland, people, and revolution.

Security Forces Capture 210

LD292026 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] a 700-man group of the professional criminals and killers, belonging to the so-called Etihad-e Islami band, who had no any other objective except to commit terrorism and subversion, was recently crushed in Zibak subdistrict, Badakhshan Province, by the vigilant security forces of this province. A number of them were arrested.

A security spokesman of this province told the BAKHTAR correspondent:

A 700-man caravan belonging to the criminal band of Etihad-e Islami, led by Mowlawi Mehdi, had come from Pakistan to Zibak subdistrict via (Garm Cheshma) and (Sosalin) regions to perpetrate subversion, murder, and terrorism. They armed themselves by selling stolen lapis lazuli.

The vigilant security forces of Badakhshan Province launched an attack on them, which resulted in the arrest of 210, including the ringleader. Others were gunned down.

Some 135 various weapons such as Egyptian and Chinese Kalashnikovs, [words indistinct] recoilless artillery, 5 D. SH. K.[as heard], 5 Chinese rocket launchers, 4 heavy machine guns, more than 300,000 rounds of ammunition, more than 1.5 million afghanis, and Pakistani rupees and Iranian rials were seized.

With the elimination of this criminal caravan, the people of Badakhshan Province were saved from the evil of their crimes and now live in peace.

Other Groups Surrender

LD300711 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR — A large group of counter-revolutionaries consisting of more than 100 persons surrendered themselves together with their ringleader named Abdul Qadir son of Juma Niaz to the security forces of Jauzjan Province. Also another group of counter revolutionaries has surrendered itself with their weapons to the security forces in Takhar Province. Repenting their past actions, they have now organized themselves in revolutionary defence groups in the provinces for the defence of country, revolution and annihilation of counter-revolution.

Karachi: Mujahidin Capture Orgun Airpot

BK301028 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Afghan freedom fighters have captured Orgun airport after fierce fighting with the Soviet-backed Karmal troops in Paktia Province. After occupation of the airport, the freedom fighters also tightened the siege around the cantonment.

Meanwhile, several Karmal troops are reported killed during an attack by the freedom fighters in Takhta Pul subdivision of Qandahar Province. Four freedom fighters are also reported to have lost their lives.

Reports from Helmand Province say that the freeedom fighters attacked a Soviet-Karmal convoy on the 15th of this month in (Marcha) subdivision, killing several Soviet-Karmal troops. During the operation, the Soviet gunship helicopters bombed the area.

Briefs

Radio Communication — Kabul, December 26, BAKHTAR — A 300 watt wireless communication apparatus between Kabul-Sheberghan and a 30 watt apparatus within Jowzjan Province were inaugurated yesterday. With the new facilities wireless communication has now been established between Kabul and Sheberghan cities as well as between different districts within Jowzjan province. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 27 Dec 83 LD]

MPR Agreements— Kabul, December 28, BAKHTAR — Protocols on friendship and cooperation and the consular treaty between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Mongolia were signed here today by Shah Mohammed Dost, the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, and Puntsagiyn Shagdarsuren, the ambassador of the People's Republic of Mongolia. The documents were initiated during the friendly visit to Mongolia of the high-ranking party and state delegation of the DRA headed by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0523 GMT 29 Dec 83 LD]

AFP Reports Casualties From Election Violence

BK300910 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 30 (AFP) — At least six persons including two candidates and a para-police constable have been killed in clashes during the past three days of elections in Bangladesh, according to reports quoting local officials. The reports also said 225 people had been injured in the clashes, which resulted in officials suspending polling in at least 100 voting centres. Voting began Tuesday for 4,400 union councils, which are local bodies each representing a group of villages, and is to end on January 10.

Police and para-police forces guarding the polling centres had to open fire on at least 10 places to disperse clashing groups or to control crowds. In some places mobs attacked police and were reported to have snatched away two rifles.

In the southern coastal district of Patuakhali, a policeman shot dead three persons, including the para-police constable, and wounded eight others, reports said. He was put under suspension and reportedly said that the shots were fired during a scuffle with a crowd that was trying to take his gun.

In most of the centres where voting was suspended, ballot boxes had been taken or officials had been beaten or kept hostage by supporters of various candidates.

The elections are the first of a series of local and national polls planned by the military regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to return the country to democracy.

i n

Briefs

British High Commissioner — Dhaka, Dec 28 BSS — The British high commissioner designate to Bangladesh, Mr. T.G. Streeton, presented his credentials to President Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad at Bangabhavan [Presidential Palace] Tuesday here. [Excerpt] [Dhaka BSS in English 0627 GMT 28 Dec 83 BK]

Saudi Loan — Dhaka, Dec 28 BSS — Bangladesh will receive a soft-term loan of 25 million dollars from the Saudi Fund for Development [SFP] for a deep tubewell project under an agreement signed here Tuesday. The loan is repayable in 25 years including a grace period of five years bearing a service charge of one per cent on the principal amount of the loan, withdrawan and outstanding from time to time. The agreement also carries a provision for using a portion of the loan amount for meeting the local cost of the project. The total loan given to Bangladesh by the Saudi Fund now stands at 216.96 million dollars. Besides the SFD loans, Bangladesh so far received 97 million dollars outright grant from Saudi Arabia. Finance and Planning Minister, Mr. A.M.A. Muhith, and the visiting managing director of the fund, Mr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Suqayr, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0631 GMT 28 Dec 83 BK]

Congress Session Discusses Economic Resolution

BK301010 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A strong plea was made at the 77th plenary session of the Indian National Congress, now in session at Calcutta, to take the 20-point program to the doorstep of the people in the villages. Participating in a discussion on the economic resolution, members also demanded the vigorous implementation of land reform. They welcomed the resolution which reaffirms the party's commitment to build a self-reliant economy based on science and technology. The resolution calls for a concerted action to achieve the twin objectives of faster growth and social justice.

Earlier, the plenary session unanimously adopted the international resolution moved by Mr P. Shiv Shankar and seconded by Mr Arjun Singh. The resolution urges superpowers to resume their dialogue for removing the threats of a nuclear war facing humanity. During the discussion, members expressed general satisfaction over the government's nonaligned policy. They said India's role in the recent nonaligned summit and the Commonwealth heads of government meet in the capital has enhanced the country's prestige. They also appreciated the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, in easing tension in several parts of the world and to promote a dialogue between the developed and the developing nations for achieving a just world economic order.

Winding up the discussions, Mr P. Narasimha Rao said India's efforts in the last 3 years contributed adequately toward maintaining world peace. India, he said, is working toward limiting the arms race.

Gandhi Addresses Session

BK301022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The 77th plenary session of the Indian National Congress has unanimously passed the economic resolution. The session ended at Surendranagar in Calcutta today.

In her concluding remarks, the Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, has called upon all sections of people to work hard and fight against poverty and the economic backwardness. She said the war against poverty has not ended. In fact, it began only after achieving independence. Mrs Gandhi said the country has made much progress in many fields, but still we are far behind the target. She said that everyone should sacrifice something for the betterment of the country. The feeling of sacrifice gives immense satisfaction which is no less than any post or position.

The All-India Congress Committee-I president said such conferences would strengthen the party and also the nation. It will provide an occasion to meet people from different parts of the country and know their problems and achievements. Mrs Gandhi said independence, political unity, and progress are all the gifts of the Congress Party. She said she never uses harsh language for any opposition party or individual, but she does it only when there is a breakdown of comunal harmony.

Mrs Gandhi has announced a plan of action for her party members of parliament and members of Legislative Assembly to maintain mass contact. The plan involves touring by people's representatives of the party with a view to see that the programs for weaker sections are implemented in such a way that its [as heard] benefits reach them. They will also listen to the people's grievances and take steps for redressal of their complaints. This new plan of action will help in balanced development of different regions and in the implementation of the new 20-point program. Mrs Gandhi advised her party MP's and MLA's to go to even those districts where the Congress has not been very active. She told them to organize meetings in which they should explain the party's programs and policies to the people.

Gandhi News Conference

BK301320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister says that the country is facing dangers both from within and outside. Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Brigade Parade Ground in Calcutta today, Mrs Gandhi said the opposition parties are fanning antinational forces and want to create differences between communities. She said the opposition is charging her with diverting public attention by talking about dangers of war, but, in fact, it is the opposition which is trying to divert the attention of the people in the name of religion, caste, region, and language. Mrs Gandhi said that she is not opposed to any individual or party. Her fight is against those who are opposed to the unity and integrity of the country.

The prime minister has described certain happenings in Jammu and Kashmir as extremely unfortunate. Mrs Gandhi said antinational elements are being encouraged in the state deliberately and unwittingly. She made these remarks when addressing a news conference at Surendranagar in Calcutta soon after the end of the 77th plenary session of the Congress-I today. The prime minister reaffirmed that her party will continue to fight antinational policies wherever they are pursued.

Replying to a question, Mrs Gandhi said that freedom of press does not mean saying of those things which are not in the national interest. Mrs Gandhi said that certain reports appearing in a section of the press are antinational.

To another question about the apprehension of the opposition parties of impending midterm poll, the prime minister said that there is no truth in such utterances.

Regarding the invitation of the UN General Assembly president to attend a meeting with President Reagan and President Andropov, Mrs Gandhi said she had met the world leaders in United States, in India, and other countries recently, and saw their attitude. She expressed the view that at present the atmosphere does not seem conducive for a meeting.

NDA Official's Criticism

BK291559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The chief whip of the National Democratic Alliance [NDA], Mr J.P. Mathur, member of Parliament, has criticized the statements made by the Congress-I leaders at the All India Congress Committee session at Calcutta. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he alleged that the Congress-I leaders have sought to create a fear psychology by harping on external dangers.

Punjab Police Arrest Arms Smugglers

BK301004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested a gang of four arms smugglers. They are suspected to be involved in three murders in Amritsar and some acts of sacrilege of religious places in the district. The inspector general of police for law and order, Mr P.S. Bhinder, told newsmen in Chandigarh today that dressed as Nihangs [Sikh sect] these miscreants had been active in Amritsar for the last 1 and 1/2 years. They were involved in 42 robberies, including some in banks. Mr Bhinder said the gang has smuggled about 1,000 country-made arms of various types from Rajasthan and sold them in Amritsar.

Economic Review of 1983 Third Quarter

BK251415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The Indian economy is poised for considerable improvement following better performance in the farm sector. A review of the National Council of Applied Economic Research for the July-September quarter says productions of various crops are likely to touch a new high because of the good and the fairly widespread monsoon this year. It is now certain, the report says, that after the record rabi [autumn] crop this year khariff [spring] production will also touch a new peak. Notable improvements are also expected in the production of cotton, jute, and oil seed.

Industrial production, the review says, continues to be lower than the target of 8 percent. Production in certain key industries like coal, power, and steel showed an aggregate decline of 1.6 percent in April-July this year compared to the corresponding period last year. However, coal production subsequently picked up. In June-July, coal production was 1.1 percent higher than in the corresponding months last year and was 6 percent higher in August-September over the same period in 1982.

Power generation was affected in the first half of this year because of a decline in the generation of hydroelectricity. This had occurred following inadequate monsoon last year. The overall power generation has, however, improved after the second half of this year with a marked pickup in hydropower generation and growth in coal production.

On the export-import front, the performance is better. There were increases in exports accompanied by a marginal reduction of 1.3 percent in imports. The country's foreign exchange reserves stood at nearly a little over 49.44 billion rupees at the end of last month, says the report. The reserves have thus increased by 6.79 billions in the first 8 months of 1983-84.

EXPRESS Comments on Ershad Takeover as President

BK291439 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "New Trends in Dhaka"]

[Text] If there is any surprise about Lt-General Ershad taking over the presidency in Bangladesh it is that he did not do this much earlier instead of being content to remain Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] and Army Chief. He had foresworn this option by committing himself not to become President or to enter politics while in uniform. This was a needless self-denying ordinance, as being CMLA virtually made him executive head of state and the country's political centre. However, Gen Ershad has not doffed his uniform. The erstwhile President, whom he had nominated at the time of his takeover, has reportedly been appointed head of the newly formed officially-backed Jana Dal party. The change is intended to mark a trend towards "civilianisation" of the regime and, in the General's own words, to pave the way for the restoration of democracy. Whether it might persuade him to accommodate the opposition by reversing the sequence of elections and go in for a parliamentary poll before the announced presidential election on May 24 remains to be seen. But reports from Dhaka suggest a possibly new scenario.

Gen Ershad is known to have been in touch with Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed who head the BNP [Bangladesh National Party]-led seven party alliance and the Awami League-led 15 party front respectively. According to some sources, he is trying to persuade them to join his government in an appropriate capacity so that it has the flavour of a national government that could lead the country to elections and a civilian restoration. In that event, the object might be to forge an electoral alliance between the new Jana Dal and the two opposition fronts. In such an event Gen Ershad himself would emerge as an all-party or independent head of state and would have to agree to shed his uniform. If such a consensus did emerge, with Army support, it might be an answer to a prayer, for Bangladesh sorely needs a strong government of national unity not merely to steer it back securely to the democratic path but to ensure the execution of urgent programmes of national reconstruction.

EXPRESS Supports Nepal Proposal for Peace Zone

BK291335 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Zones of Peace"]

[Text] President Reagan's endorsement of Nepal as a Zone ofPeace, conveyed in a toast to King Birendra at a banquet at the White House last week, should be no occasion for disquiet in India. Something approaching 30 countries have so far stated their willingness to endorse this status which Nepal has sought since 1975 and incorporated as a directive principle in its constitution. Among these countries are China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. India continues to study the Nepalese proposal. Katmandu has offered a seven-point elaboration or clarification which commits Nepal to non-alignment and peaceful coexistence; non-use of force; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-interference in the internal affairs of other states; disallowing any activity on its soil hostile to any other state; continued adherence to all existing treaties as long as they remain valid (including the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship); and eschewing military alliances or foreign bases on its territory. In all these matters Nepal understandably seeks reciprocity.

India's doubts have revolved around the need to declare Nepal a Zone of Peace, given the 1950 India-Nepal Treaty and the on-going process of normalisation of Sino-Indian relations. It has also been sceptical about the concept of a single-nation zone of peace and its implications in the circumstances of an open border between India and Nepal. Certainly it is predent and necessary to examine any new idea from all conceivable angles and clear such doubts as might arise. But it is puzzling why the Government remains cold to the proposal and regards it as born of animus against this country. Nepal sees peace as an imperative of a small, developing nation and its status as a Zone of Peace as the birthright of the Land of the Buddha. It has repeatedly stated that it is not animated by any threat from India but desires to institutionalise peace in the region. It sees ZOP as an extension of the concept of zones of peace being canvassed elsewhere, such as an Indian Ocean Zone of Peace of which India is a powerful advocate.

The Indian response has been unduly cautious, even suspicious. Nepal like Bhutan cannot be kept in tutelage. They are sovereign independent nations with an identity, emerging personality and aspirations of their own. Old relationships must change and India would be ill-advised to resist such change. In this modern age, threats come not only from neighbours across land borders but through espionage, destabilisation and other means. Nepal would like to insure against all such contingencies so far as is possible. If India is hostile to or contemptuous of its aspirations then it will turn to China or to others. A more far-sighted and generous diplomacy towards its smaller neighbours would be in India's highest interest. It has much to gain from cooperation with Nepal: Himalayan water resource development for one. A stand-off can operate both ways. There is possibly a lurking fear that acceptance of Nepal as a Zone of Peace might erode India's opposition to Pakistan's plea for declaring South Asia a Zone of peace, thus binding India to commitments inapplicable to China. There is however no automatic connection. But if India can enlarge the area of peace around it without prejudice to its interests, that should be all to the good.

Trade Protocol With USSR Analyzed

BK291449 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Welcome Trade Plan"]

[Text] The Indo-Soviet trade protocol for 1984 has some welcome features, but lacks new directions which are essential if trade is to grow rapidly. The Soviet Union increased crude supplies from 2.5 million tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes in 1983 as a one-time exception. But it has now agreed to maintain this level in 1984. Thus the Soviet Union has more than doubled crude supplies to India at a time when it has cut back on supplies to its Comecon partners by 10 per cent. It is a pity that it has not agreed to sell India rough diamonds and gold, which this country needs for its jewellery exports. Future trade expansion cannot be based on rising oil sales by the Soviet Union, which lacks supplies. Nor is it wise for India to increase its dependence on the Soviet Union for oil. The 1984 trade plan envisages a jump of 24 per cent to Rs 3,840 crore from an estimated Rs 3,100 crore in 1983. It will be no surprise if actual trade falls short of the 1984 target, just as it fell well short of the 1983 target of Rs 3,626 crore. Nevertheless, trade will rise by a substantial amount, unless payments difficulties recur as they did in 1982.

The Soviet Union will be supplying essential commodities like aluminium, cement and newsprint in larger quanrities, apart from fertilisers and petroleum products, at internatinally competitive prices, so that India will in effect get more and more essential imports for rupee payment. India in turn will be exporting an increasing quantity of items to the Soviet Union that are not easily saleable elsewhere. Sugar sales to the USSR will be over and above India's quota in the International Sugar Agreement. India is unable to fulfil its textile quotas in European markets, and sales to the Soviet Union thus constitute additional trade and not trade diversion. More than 60 per cent of exports to the Soviet Union in 1984 is planned to be of manufactures and other non-traditional items. In recent years, India has depended much too heavily on the Soviet market for items capable of fetching hard currency. A very high percentage of cashew, pepper, mica and oilcakes has been going to this single market. The withdrawal of the Soviet Union as a buyer in 1982 then dealt a major blow to cashew exports. It is important therefore to ensure market diversification and restrict Soviet purchases of any one item which is already established in hard currency markets.

NEPAL

Khatri: King's U.S. Visit Reinforced Ties

BK251332 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Katmandu, Dec 25 (AFP) — The recent visit of Nepal's King Birendra and Queen Aishworya to the United States has "reinforced" the ties between this mountain kingdom and the Western power, according to Nepalese Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri. Mr Khatri, who accompanied the royal couple on their official visit to the United States and on informal visits to Switzerland and Luxembourg, said yesterday that the U.S. tour raised U.S.-Nepal relations to a new height.

The visit, made at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan, gave the king a chance to become acquainted with the U.S. leadership and to renew contacts with friends, political leaders and intellectual there, he said in a written statement. The talks between President Reagan and King Birendra were cordial and showed mutual understanding on bilateral and international issues, he said. "Both heads of state expressed satisfaction over the existing state of bilateral relations that have evolved over the past three decades, and both were confident that it would continue to develop for mutual benefit. Both the leaders have reiterated the common commitment to peace and human progress," he said.

The president assured the Nepalese monarch of continued U.S. economic cooperation and assistance for the next five years in the development of this landlocked nation, he said. President Reagan expressed appreciation of Nepal's attempts to promote world peace through such programs as participation in United Nations' peace keepsing forces and he supported Nepal's zone of peace proposal, he said. The proposal in part declares Nepal neutral and offlimits as a base for any foreign military organizations. Mr Khatri said that the visit had succeeded in projecting Nepal and its national and international policies to the U.S. Government. All of the visits "have met our objectives and expectations," he said.

The royal couple is currently on vacation in Japan and are expected to return to Katmandu on Friday. The visit to japan "has also provided an opportunity to hold informal talks of the official level on matter of bilateral relations and to explore new areas of economic cooperation," he said.

PAKISTAN

Emissary of Moroccan King Arrives With Message

BK301040 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] A special emissary of King Hassan of Morocco, Mr (Abdel Karim Allaf), arrived in Islamabad this morning on a brief visit. He will call on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this afternoon and deliver a special message from King Hassan. According to informed sources, the message deals with the Islamic summit which is being held in Casablanca next month.

Al-Zulfiqar Member Arrested in Gujrat

GF300750 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 18 Dec 83 p 1

[By staff correspondent]

[Text] Gujrat, 17 December — A member of the "Al-Zulfiqar" organization set fire to the furniture of the first class train waiting room with gasoline and then fled. As the next train was due, there were many people on the platform. He was caught by Railway Police Chief Constable Qamar Shah. A search of his person yielded a gasoline bottle, a photograph of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and Air Marshal Asghar Khan's book "Generals in Politics." He has been remanded to Wazirabad jail where he confessed that he is an "Al-Zulfiqar" member, an admirer of Bhutto, and resident of Gujranwala.

SRI LANKA

Referendum To Be Held on Tamil Decisions

BK2815?9 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A referendum will be held on decisions taken at the roundtable conference on the Tamil issue. No decision will be implemented secretly. President Jayewardene said today that every decision will be implemented on the decision of the (?50) million voters.

He made these observations at the annual session of the local government (?central) service union today. The president was the chief guest at the session held at the public library auditorium in Colombo.

Mr Jayewardene noted that, however, every decision should be based on the concept that Sri Lanka should be a unitary state. He emphasized that no decision [words indistinct]. Problems facing Sri Lanka, which is a [word indistinct] country and a democratic island, should be solved through discussions and the wishes of the majority. As a result of the all-party conference, there is a possibility of vesting more power than at present in local government institutions.

However, Mr Jayewardene further said that he cannot [word indistinct] about the decisions that will be taken at the meeting.

Referring at length to the Tamil issue, he said that it had been a serious problem from 1956. The government during that period had the responsibility of banning the separatist movement. He explained that this consquently turned into a serious movement because measures were not taken during the [words indistinct] period. The government has to bear an additional expenditure of about 2 billion rupees due to the July disturbances. A decision to impose 1 percent tax was taken to cover this expenditure. It is the responsibility of everyone to contribute.

10 Parties Invited

BK300936 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has extended a formal invitation to 10 political parties to participate in a roundtable conference on the ethnic problem. The conference is to be held in Colombo on the 10th of next month. President Jayewardene has also sent them a 14-point peace plan for their consideration. Leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front have already received the invitation.

TULF Invited

BK300930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has sent inivitation to the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] to attend the roundtable conference on solving the ethnic problem. The conference is to be held in Colombo from the 10th of next month.

The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr Chatwal, told newsmen in Madras that he has handed over the invitations to the TULF secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam; its president, Mr Sivasithamparam; and other party leaders. He described the decision to inivite the TULF leaders for the conference as positive. Mr Chatwal will meet the external affairs minister and the prime minister's special envoy in New Delhi and apprise them of the latest situation in the island.

Mr Amirthalingam told newsmen that the TULF Politbureau would meet in Madras in a couple of days to discuss their future course of action in the light of the invitation.

Briefs

Envoys to FRG, France — Four Sri Lankan Ambassadors who are due to take up appointments shortly paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister R. Premadasa at his office yesterday. They wree Tissa Jayakody (Federal Republic of Germany), L.B.G. Monarawila (Singapore), D.G.B. de Silva (France) and E.E.B. Dhanapala (Permanent Mission U.N. Geneva). [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 16 Dec 83 p 3 BK]

Shipping Accord With PRC — The Sri Lanka-China shipping aggreement was signed in Colombo on 20 December. Under the agreement, which will be effective for 1 year, Chinese vessels will be uscd to carry part of the goods transported by ships belonging to the SRI Lanka Shipping Corporation to European countries, including (?Britain). Repairing of Chinese vessels will be handled by the Colombo dockyard. Facilities will also be provided to Chinese ships at the port of Colombo. [Excerpt] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Dec 83 BK]

Khomeyni Receives President Khamene'i

LD291339 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — The president and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), 'Ali Khamene'i, met and conferred with the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, this morning. In this meeting the president provided the imam with a report on the current issues of the country.

Khamene'i Addresses Shi'a, Sunni on War Unity

LD291336 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here today that we are in a position and have announced it firmly to the world, that the Iraqi imposed war would not end unless the regime of Iraqi ruler, Saddam, was overthrown. He added that definitely it would turn out this way.

The president who was speaking to a group of Shi'a and Sunni Muslim ulema and also a group of people from the Baluchestan va Sistan Province, further added that the Iranian forces would attack the enemy from any point of the border which they wished. Continuing on the same subject, Khamene'i who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, added that the enemy would pay for its ventures and will learn a lesson as not to repeat such acts.

On the plots of the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran, trying to sow discord among Shi'a and Sunni Muslims, the president said that anyone who committed any action against Muslims, was a traitor to Islam and the people.

He further told the visitors that under the past regime creation of discord among various religions and Shi'a and Sunni sects of Islam, was a tool in the hands of the authorities for reaching their vicious aims. However, he stressed, even then and despite the wish of the ruling regime, we were strongly for unity among Shi'a and Sunni Muslims and worked for this goal.

Musavi Calls W. Islamic Studies Exploitive

LD292247 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Until such a time as threat of superpowers existed, and there were deprived masses in need of the liberating message of Islam, Iran should support and enhance the vital role of revolutionary organs in the country, said the Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi here today. Addressing some of the members of the teacher's Islamic associations and officials of various revolutionary organs in Iran, Musavi further noted that the imperialist world through its propaganda, wanted to portray an unsuccessful picture of the Islamic revolution of Iran. But if the successful experience of the Islamic Revolution gained universal recognition then the days of the superpowers would be numbered and the Islamic Revolution would spread all over the world, he said.

Commenting on exploiting by superpowers, of the so-called cultural and academic research for colonialistic purposes, Prime Minister Musavi said that in the past regime, culture was deviated from its true path. The colonialists, he said, in order to tighten their hold on the depirved countries transformed the original ideals of culture to suit their ends, while resorting to military means was a second factor of achieving their aims.

Pointing to the presence of about 400 institutes of Islamic studies in the U.S. Musavi said that such institute in the U.S. and Europe operated to further the exploiting ends of superpowers. Use such studies, the premier said, were designed to be utilised in coping with and supressing of struggles for liberation in the countries under their domination. [sentence as received]

Montazeri Instructs Intelligence Officials

LD291543 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Officials in charge of the intelligence and information unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps met yesterday and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. Referring to the importance and sensitive nature of their work, he said: The gentlemen should realize why the Revolution Guards Corps came into being. All of us know that the aim behind the establishment of the corps is to safeguard the goals and aspirations of our Islamic Revolution. What should be of importance to us is Islam and the divine values of the revolution. Therefore, in performing your intelligence activities you should make sure that you do not violate the basic principles inculcated by Islam and the revolution.

He emphasized: The brothers should not violate and search people's homes as far as it concerns their private lives and private affairs. Even if there is a moral issue involved, it should not be followed up.

Concerning issues that are not connected with the plots of the counterrevolutionaries and their safe-houses, he empha-sized: Surveillance and prosecution and forcing the people to confess their sins are not religiously acceptable. Also, while following up certain reports that might be recieved, great care should be taken to ensure that people's honor and dignity are not violated through the creation of a hostile atmosphere and through irreligious conduct. Even if reports of wrongdoings concerning some individuals are received, the responsible brothers should act in accordance with religious norms and principles, compile their reports without undue haste, and take steps through legal and judicial channels. Also, so long as the verdicts are not issued by judicial authorities, they are not entitled to cast aspertions on the good name of the guilty individual or spread rumors about him, saying that his thoughts are such and such or that he follows such and such a line, or insult him. Even if someone was sentenced to death in an Islamic court, those in charge of implementing the verdict or even the judge or the prosecutor are not allowed to beat him or to insult him, other than in carrying out the verdict. All these are sins and offenses from a religious point of view.

If in the course of your intelligence work and your interrogation you face something that is contrary to religion or something which you feel would have been condemned by the holy founder of Islam, you should refuse to implement it even if you have been

ordered by a high-ranking official to do it. Of course, the issue of obeying one's superiors is respected in its own place, and order and discipline should be meticulously observed.

Officials Discuss University Management

GF280810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] A meeting of the country's university chancellors with members of the Supreme Headquarters for Cultural Revolution was held last night under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. At the end of the session Mr Shari'atmadari, a Supreme Headquarters member, talked to our correspondent on the subjects discussed and said:

The session discussed the plan on university management and the separation of the duties of the representatives of His Holiness the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. The university crusade organization was also discussed. The aim is to design the management program in such a way that university officials can carry out their duties, the university crusade can play its role in continuing the cultural revolution among the universities, and also so that cultural activities can be carried out in a good way under the supervision of representatives of His Holiness the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. The session also heard suggestions by university chancellors.

Mr Shari'atmadari added: The issue of cultural activities in the universities and teaching of Islamic philosophy and the training of the expert manpower needed in the country were the other fundamental issues discussed in the session.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,588

LD291744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,588 of Joint Staff Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, on the northwestern, western, and southern operational theaters, while defending their positions, our combatants inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. In the northwestern operational theater, thanks to the fire of the mighty combatants of Islam on enemy supply axes and positions, two 120-mm mortars, two 106-mm guns along with their carriages, a cannon, and several trenches belonging to the Iraqi personnel were destroyed while enemy movements and position construction were prevented.

In the western operational theater, exchanges of fire continued. Our forces' heavy weapons fire disrupted enemy engineering units' activities and movements. Firing was more intense in the Sumar sector. Thanks to our forces' superior firepower, the enemy was silenced. In the Shur Shirin-e Jadid sector, thanks to our forces' alertness, the activities of enemy infiltration patrols were discovered promptly, and the Iraqi forces were forced to flee by our forces' fire.

Yesterday, sporadic firing continued in the southern operational theater. While keeping enemy movements under control, the defenders of Islam opened fire on Iraqi positions, depriving them of any opportunity for any activity, setting several of their loaders and bulldozers on fire, and inflicting casualties.

Yesterday, as always, Abadan was hit by long-range enemy fire, resulting in damage to parts of a school and a car park.

During the past 24 hours, enemy aerial aggressions were repelled thanks to tactical measures taken by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the air defence units' fire.

[Signed] The joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran Cites Reports on Iraqi Executions

GF271348 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Iraqi regime has martyed another 40 of the Muslim youths in Iraq. The news bulletin published by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq last Saturday said the following, in addition to this report: Apart from this, security officials of the Saddam regime are making a great effort to arrest revolutionary Muslims in Iraq, particularly Muslim students.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi military officer who is in Austria for medical treatment has revealed that the Iraqi regime recently executed 1,500 troops after charging them with desertion and buried their bodies in a mass grave close to Abu Gharib near Baghdad without informing their families.

Kuwait Warned on Arrests, Deportations

GF291930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The recent measures taken by the Kuwaiti Government against Iraqis and Iranians resident in Kuwait have raised numerous questions in various Islamic circles. These circles ask about the principal motives for such wide-scale arrests and deportations which affect large numbers or Iraqis and Iranians. Were the arrests the result of the investigation of the recent bomb attacks in Kuwait? Are those arrested directly involved in the bomb blasts, or are the arrests merely revenge campaigns in response to the political unrest on various levels in Kuwait?

It is truly regrettable that the Kuwaiti Government has made no announcements about the arrest of hundreds of Iraqi and Iranian Muslims. These arrests have not been confined to men; women, children, and 60- and 70-year-old people have been arrested. One concludes from Kuwaiti statements that those who took part in the bomb attacks are no more than a handful. If the Kuwaiti statements on the number of people involved are correct, why then these widescale arrests and the (?deportation) of as many as

1,000 people? Whose interest do the present events in Kuwait serve?

Informed circles say in answer to these questions: The Kuwaiti Government has been subjected to great pressure from the Baghdad regime and has become embroiled in an Iraqi-U.S. plan that does not benefit it at all. Kuwaiti citizens are well aware that the brutality and terrorism of the Iraqi regime have forced many Iraqis to leave their country and take refuge in Kuwait in search for a haven from the Iraqi regime and the eyes of its suppressors. This exodus has prompted the Iraqi tyrants to seize any opportunity to exert pressure on the Kuwaiti Government to expel these large groups of Iraqis resident in Kuwait. The recent bomb attacks have created new opportunities for the malicious Ba'thist schemes. The Ba'thists, prompted by Washington, hastened to lay responsibility for the bomb attacks on the Iraqi opposition, thus aiming to hit two birds with one stone. One aim is to sever the link between such attacks and current events in Lebanon — events whose direct cause is the ugly U.S. occupation and the U.S. plan for Lebanon. The other aim is to threaten the presence of Iraqis resident in Kuwait — and this happened in the wake of the attacks against U.S. and French institutions.

It is truly regrettable that the Kuwaiti Government has succumbed to Iraqi pressure and carried out measures that are incompatible with Kuwaiti interests and contrary to the declarations made by the Kuwaiti authorities on the first day of the bomb attacks when they issued a statement specifying the number of people who will be tried by the state security court and declared that they will not take any measure against those who are not connected with the bomb attacks. We ask: Are the hundreds of people who have been deported from Kuwait involved in these attacks? Were the hundreds of people arrested following the blasts also involved? Were the women and children who have been imprisoned involved in the attacks? If they were involved, why is their involvement not openly announced?

The Kuwaiti Government should first think of its interests before embarking on a losing gamble in which the only winner is the U.S. imperialists and their ally, the tyrannical Saddam. The Kuwaiti Government should wager on the Iraqi people and not on a regime that is on its deathbed. Is it in Kuwait's interest to antagonize the noble Iraqi people who have rendered great services to the Kuwaiti people? Is it in Kuwait's interest to be hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has become a bastion for all Muslim peoples and which has begun to emerge as the mightiest revolutionary power in the Middle East?

The arrest of a single Muslim in Kuwait, whatever his nationality or sect, is tantamount to a declaration of war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. What then when those arrested include women and children? Reason and self-interest make it necessary now for the Kuwaiti Government to review its stands — stands that do not serve its interests in the least — and adopt new stands that stem from the will of the Kuwaiti people and are totally free of external pressure whose only purpose it to push Kuwait toward situations that do not serve its interests.

Expelled Iranians Return

LD291122 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29 IRNA — A total of 23 Iranians were expelled from Kuwait and arrived here early Thursday morning via Dubayy. The officials from the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Education received the Iranians at the Mehrabad Airport at 0230 a.m.

The expulsion of the Iranians followed by [as received] a string of bomb blasts on Dec 12 in Kuwait. The embassies of the United States, France and some other places in Kuwait were the targets of the bomb attacks on which several people reportedly killed and injured.

One of the Iranians who arrived here Thursday morning was working in the sheikhdom as a school teacher in one of the Iranian schools there. Giving some details the teacher said that the security officials of the tiny Persian Gulf state came to the school some 13 days ago and searched the entire building of the school. He said that during the raid he was arrested along with two of his other collegues. They remained in prison for 13 days where they were tortured.

Talking to IRNA one teacher said that during his detention he also heard the cries of Iraqi and Kuwaiti Muslim mujahideen who were being tortured by the Kuwaiti security police. He said, "horrifying prisons of Kuwait were full of committed youths from Muslim countries such as Jordan, Bahrain, Pakistan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq."

The teacher said that just after the bomb blasts the police in that tiny Persian Gulf country started a series of arrests of the people with no reason. Through these actions such as arrests of the innocent people the Kuwait authorities wanted to give wrong report to the international media that everything was going on normal in that country. At the same time the security agents were searching all the possible places here and there in that country. Torture was exercised on the arrested people before their family members including wives and children.

The teacher who also arrived here along with 23 Iranians said that the savage acts of the Kuwaiti government indicate that country's authorities fear of the glory of the islamic revolution.

Another Iranian who was an employee of the Iranian embassy in Kuwait said that he had gone under torture of the Kuwaiti security police for 15 days. He said that he was working there as a guard at the embassy and his only sin was to be a man of discipline.

Giving some details of the torture exercised by the Kuwaiti authorities he said that he was given punishment of 80 lashes and then was forced to walk for 230 kilometers. He was given more physical and mental tortures. He said that the Kuwait police tried to link him with the Ad-Da'wah party of Iraq

Another Iranian worker said that he was beaten for hours.

One of the ulema of theological school in Kuwait who was also expelled and arrived here Thursday morning said that the Kuwaiti authorities had an insulting and hostile attitude towards the Iranians and pointed out, "it proves that the Kuwaiti authorities are trying to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for the bomb blasts in that country."

Kuwait Returning Iraqis

GF300640 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government has handed over 4,500 Muslim Iraqis residing in Kuwait to officials of the ruling regime after the recent explosions there. The regime ruling in Iraq has asked the GCC members to hand over 12,000 Muslim Iraqis residing in these countries under the pretext that they are wanted by this regime.

Independent news sources report that hundreds of Iraqis outside Iraq, who were included in the amnesty issued by the Baghdad rulers in 1973, were executed by the ruling regime in Iraq after their return.

Deputies Speak on Iraq War, Islamic Revolution

LD291319 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, the first preagenda speaker during today's open session of the Islamic Majlis was Seyyed Hasan Musavi-Tabrizi, deputy for the people of Hashtrud. After glorifying the lofty position of the martyr Ayatollah Ghaffari, he expressed condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great crusader. Referring to the multifarious plots hatched by global arrogance and its agents against the Islamic Revolution and to Iraq's war imposed on Iran, he said: Saddam and global arrogance should know that they must expect a crushing rebuff from Islam's combatants whereby — God willing — as a result of their repeated and effective blows, all problems arising from the war in the region would be ended.

The next speaker was Hasan Hasanzadeh, deputy for the people of Kashmar. Referring to the achievements and effects of the Islamic Revolution in the world, particularly in Islamic countries, he said: Now, thanks to the Islamic Revolution and the vigilance and self-reliance that Muslims have found, global arrogance has been robbed of peaceful slumber, particularly in Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan. The stringent security cordons thrown around the White House, the Elysee Palace, and European and U.S. dens of espionage speak of their great fear of Muslim revolutionaries. He added: The multinational intervention forces in Beirut and the Zionist aggressors in southern Lebanon, because of their fear of the martyrdom-seeking Muslims, are skulking as prisoners in their own trenches. All these things constitute the symptoms of fear and panic felt by global arrogance.

Continuing his speech, the speaker warned the Persian Gulf shaykhs against continuing their collaboration with the United States and Saddam, who are waging battle against Islam, and called on the Muslim, Palestinian, and Lebanese fighters to unite in order to wage war against the Zionists until their total annihilation and to push aside the compromisers who have forced themselves as leaders of the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon.

The next preagenda speaker was Mohammad Forughi, deputy for the people of Masjed Soleyman, who, while condemning the latest crime to be committed by the Zionist Saddamists in Masjed Soleyman, emphasized the unshakable resolve and divine steadfastness of the heroic Iranian Muslim nation in waging relentless battle against Saddam and for the destruction of the Iraqi Zionist Ba'thist Party. He called on international organizations, even if only to protect their good name superficially, to protest these crimes and to convey the plaintive voice of the Islamic nation of Iran to the ears of the world's meek. He called on those in authority to take the necessary resolute measures as soon as possible in order to have a sharp confrontation with and to demolish the enemy. He called on our homeland's martyr-nurturing Islamic nation, by forgetting slogans and by working to please God, to refrain from any action that might direct public opinion to any other issue except war and do their utmost toward the final victory.

Passenger Shipping Line To Service Gulf

GF251728 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — The first regular passenger shipping line from Iran to Persian Gulf states will operate twice a week from 2nd January carrying passengers from the port of Bandar Abbas to Ash-Shariqah, the UAE. The general director of the Islamic Republic shipping lines, Mr. Mohammad Suri, told IRNA that a Japanese-built ship has been purchased for this purpose which could carry 354 passengers and a maximum tonnage of 500. The travelling cost would be a minimum of 192 UAE dirhams, half the cost of air travel, and each passenger could carry 50 kg of goods at no extra charge, he said.

Mr Suri said a company has also been established with plans to purchase 20 ships for passenger shipping services for domestic travel in the Persian Gulf. He said a passenger ship has been purchased from Japan with a capacity of 80 passengers which would travel between Khalis-e Chah Bahar and Konarak ports. He said the service would begin in two months.

As for future plans, he said, the Islamic Republic shipping lines would also set up passenger services on the Bushehr-Kuwait and Bushehr-Qatar routes as well as services from other southern ports to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. After the Iraqi imposed war, he added, similar services would be established from the port of Khorramshahr to Kuwait.

Paper Interviews Student Expelled From France

GF291616 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — The French measure to expel

the Iranian students was prompted by that government's fear of the efforts by the Iranian students to awaken the people of French colonies, said an Iranian Muslim student recently expelled from France. In an interview with the morning daily *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, printed on Thursday, the Iranian student elaborated on the attitude of the French police towards Muslim students, their arrest and later their expulsion. He believed that recent ultimatum of the Islamic Jihad organisation of Lebanon to the effect that they would take the war to France in case French troops did not leave Lebanon, plunged France into panic. Therefore, they tried to attribute it to Iran, he said adding that when they (the students) protested against the brutal behaviour of the police, they were told that the French troops in Beirut had been dealt with in much worse manner.

The Muslim student added that upon their arrest, the students were shown decree by the French Interior Minister Gaston Defferre to that effect that Muslim students had threatened security of France and therefore police was authorised to arrest them.

Referring to the collaboration of the French police with counter-revolutionaries living there, the Iranian student noted that France collected main part of its remenues from its colonies and everything helping awakening of people in those colonies would frighten France. Muslim students association in France, in the last year, played an effective role in further awakening citizens of the French colonies he said adding that so far some 100 of such people had been converted to islam and become Shi'ite Muslims. Pointing to ever-increasing protest demonstrations in various cities in France, including in heavy industries sector, the Muslim student said that the French Government alleged that the Islamic Republic was involved in such demonstrations.

He told *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* that France was suffering from ailing export economy due to devaluation of franc and therefore was not able to compete with economic giants in the West and in Japan. It was for this same reason that France had turned to the exports of arms and made its economy more dependent on countries in a more miserable situation than itself such as Iraq, he said.

Emphasising on the occupation of most key posts by the Zionists in France, the student noted another reason for disorders in that country was the influence of Free Masons who held important positions. He quoted *EXPRESS* magazine to the effect that seven ministers, 88 deputies in parliament, 13 senators, as well as senate vice-president were among French Free Masons.

DRA Mujahidin Combat Soviet Occupation

LD251128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today is the fourth anniversary of occupation of the Islamic country of Afghanistan by the Soviet invading armed forces. On the basis of reports received from Afghanistan, the Muslim Afghan mujahidin have intensified their offensives and operations against the invading forces in recent days in order to mark the beginning of the fifth year of occupation. On the basis of the same reports, intense clashes occured between the Muslim Afghan commandos and the invaders along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border last week. This is taking place at a time when the puppet government of Babrak Karmal has no role in the main and destiny-making events of Afghanistan. Simultaneously with the reduction in the number of Babrak Karmal's troops, the Soviet Union has dispatched more troops of the Red Army to continue its aggression against the territory of Islamic Afghanistan.

Despite the shuttle service between Moscow and Kabul and the comings and goings of Afghanistan's puppet cabinet members to carry out the orders of their masters to implement Kremlin policies in Afghanistan, it is clear to everyone that the survival of Babrak Karmal's government totally depends on the presence of over 100,000 Soviet militarymen in Afghanistan. The Soviet propaganda machine, by broadcasting false reports on the situation in Afghanistan, is first trying to depict the government of Babrak Karmal as an independent and democratic government, and second, by distorting the news and broadcasting shameless lies, it wants to show that the destruction of residential areas and burning of crops of the Muslim people of Afghanistan are ways of developing and expanding constructive activities in this country. Third, they are trying to pretend that the defeat and lack of success of the Soviet Red Army in the past 4 years have been some kind of victory.

Intervention by the Soviet advisers in every political, military, and social event of Afghanistan is the clearest sign that Babrak Karmal's government is not really independent. In this connection, some high-ranking Afghan officials who have fled this country during the past few years have, in various interviews, confirmed the presence and intervention of the invaders in even the most minor affair of Afghanistan's Government.

Last year, when Babrak Karmal's government was facing many problems as a result of shortage of Agricultural products, he changed the agriculture minister so as to misguide the people of Afghanistan on the real cause of agricultural destruction in Afghanistan. The former governor of Afghanistan's agricultural bank fled this country with his family in September last year. After fleeing Afghanistan, he said that following the occupation of his country by the Soviet Armed Forces, the agricultural sector was nearly destroyed. He added: As a result of the war, over half the agricultural land in Afghanistan has been destroyed and the price of food has increased astronomically. In view of the fact that before the invasion of the Soviet Armed Forces the majority of the Muslim people of Afghanistan were farmers, one can frankly say that the repeated bombardment of residential areas and agricultural fields in this country by Soviet planes and also the migration of hundreds of thousands of Afghans to neighboring countries have delivered a heavy blow to the economy of this country. The invaders, in the history of this country, will remain the main agents responsible for the poverty, deprivation, and homelessness of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Reports from Afghanistan indicate that in order to make up for its defeat by the Muslim warriors of Afghanistan and in order to weaken the morale and power of the mujahidin, the Soviet Army

resorts to aerial bombings; and this is taking place at a time when the Soviet propaganda systems are employing all their resources to broadcast baseless reports and lies trying to show that their puppet government has been successful in improving the social and economic sectors of Afghanistan. By carrying false reports on the government's support for farmers and the implementation of land reforms in Afghanistan, the Russian propaganda system is trying to deceive some of the opponents and invite them to cooperate. It is also trying to prevent the spread of reports on the frustration and defeats of the Soviet Armed Forces and their puppet government in Kabul.

The Soviet Union is starting the fifth year of occupation of Afghanistan at a time when it has failed to achieve any success and despite the loss of 15,000 Red Army troops and the countless economic problems arising from the confrontation. The USSR has shown considerable weakness in its battle against the Afghan mujahidin. The Soviet Union intervened in the internal affairs of Afghanistan on the basis of strategic plans of the Kremlin politicians, including the plan to gain access to the warm waters of the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. But when it realized that its puppet government was not capable of surviving in Afghanistan's political arena, it directly launched a military attack against this Islamic country in order to safeguard the prestige of the communist bloc in the world.

The unstinging struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan halted the aggression of the Soviet Red Army and, by offering thousands of martyrs for their sacred aspirations, the mujahidin exposed the real nature of the Soviet Union in the world arena. They removed the veil from the face of the Eastern superpower which, behind a mountain of slogans and baseless claims, was trying to depict itself as a supporter of the deprived people in the world.

As a result of the bloody struggle in the course of the past 4 years, the Muslim warriors have gained valuable experience. They realize that the longer the invading forces remain in Afghanistan, the weaker they become and the more the combat capability of the Soviet Armed Forces decreases and deteriorates. A brief review of the outcome of the war during the past 4 years shows that the resistance of the Muslim warriors of Afghanistan is eternal and the presence of the invaders is temporary.

Afghan Rebel Leader on Occupation Anniversary

LD281035 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 28 IRNA — A top Afghan Muslim leader Tuesday said that the armed struggle of the Afghan Mujhideen would continue as long as even a single Soviet soldier remained in Afghanistan and that [as received] until setting up a hundred percent Islamic government in Kabul. Islamic Union of Afghan Mujahideen Vice Chairman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar talking to the press on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan here said "Afghan combatants will continue their struggle with no compromise with the East and the West." "Of course," he said, "Soviet forces in Afghanistan have increased up to 200,000. But the Mujahideen are also getting stronger with better arms and ammunitions and high morale."

Commenting on the heavy losses inflicted by the Afghan mujahideen on the occupying forces he said, "During the last four-year struggle, about 45,000 Soviets were killed, 6,000 Soviet tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and 270 Soviet fighter planes and helicopters were hit."

Giving a brief account of the Afghan losses he said, "one million Afghan Muslims were martyred as a result of the Soviet bombing on the civil areas in Afghanistan and 4.5 million Afghans had become homeless."

Hekmatyar ruled out the possibility of any cooperation with the United States in the struggle against the Soviet oppressors and said, "I believe that the U.S. will never back any Islamic movement. If the U.S. does so it will be for just propaganda and publicity."

Commenting on the possible roe of Afghan deposed king Mohammad Zahir Shah he said, "Both eastern and western powers are plotting against the movement of the Muslims in Afghanistan." Gulbuddin said, "The oppressed Afghans will never accept Zahir Shah who killed Afghans and who was one of the causes for the Soviet aggression."

Giving a piece of advice to the Soviets, Gulbuddin said, "It's better for them (Soviets) to withdraw from Afghanistan as they are the definite loser in the war."

Meanwhile, Afghan Muslims in various countries staged massive demonstrations in which they denounced the Soviet occupation of their homeland. In various cities the Afghan mujahideen protested before the Soviet embassies and shouted slogans against the imperialism. In some cases the Afghan mujahideen also set the Soviet flag on fire. They chanted slogans in which they asked the Soviets to pull out their forces from Afghanistan. The anti-Soviet demonstrations were held in the cities including Paris and London.

Clandestine: Greek Ship Carrying Arms Impounded

GF271724 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A ship carrying arms to the Tehran regime has been impounded in the Suez Canal. According to international news agencies and news sources in the Arab Middle East, a Greek vessel carrying war materiel to Tehran was intercepted by Egyptian customs officials while passing through the Suez Canal, checked, and impounded.

The captain of the ship admitted during his initial interrogation that 2,000 tons of light and medium weapons had been loaded at (Kios) port. From Cyprus it had proceeded toward Bandar 'Abbas in Iran. No further information is available about the ship carrying arms to the Islamic Republic or the origin of the arms dispatched to the Tehran regime.

The report we have received states that Egyptian Government officials have taken the ship, captain, cargo, and crew into custody.

NVOI Criticizes Regime's Policy on Kordestan

TA232015 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary: "End Bloodshed in Kordestan"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In reviewing the activities of the Islamic regime, the bitter and stark reality is that the superficial and extremist leaders of this regime, from the very outset, have pursued a policy that is inconsistent with the goals and slogans of the Iranian nation's democratic and anti-imperialist revolution. One of the problems confirming this fact is the policy of the Islamic Republic's regime on the issue of Kordestan.

As you are aware, at the outset this regime pretended that it was striving to resolve all state issues according to the revolution's goals and slogans and in a manner that would ensure the people's interests. Everyone recalls that at one time a delegation headed by the late Ayatollah Taleqani was sent to Kordestan, and later on a decree was issued in the name of Ayatollah Khomeyni regarding recognition of the Kurdish people's right in connection with self-government within the framework of a united Iran. But we saw later that all these moves were aimed at deceiving the people and (?buying) time, for it was not long before military forces were dispatched to Kordestan, and a war of fratricide was imposed on the people there.

By resorting to brute force, rulers of the Islamic Republic wanted to prevent the Kurdish people from making their just and legitimate demands. This war of fratricide, which started after the revolution at the instigation of imperialism and the region's reactionary forces, as well as the Islamic Government's insincerity, is still going on, and every day it is claiming more victims. However, experience has shown that state problems cannot be solved by resorting to coercion or brute force. The Kurdish people's national and democratic movement, which is part of the revolutionary movement of the people of our homeland Iran, has quite a long history and record. The people of Kordestan have undergone intense and long struggles in order to achieve their national rights — the right to self-government within a united Iran. The slogan of the free, combatant, and patriotic Kurdish people was and is: self-government for Kordestan; freedom and democracy for Iran. This slogan is supported by the Iranian nation and by all our revolutionary forces.

Together with their compatriots in the multinational country of Iran, the Kurdish people participated in the February revolution, made sacrifices, and played an important role in the revolution's victory. Therefore, the people of Kordestan expected that after the revolution's victory the government that replaced the shah's despotic and antipeople regime would take the necessary steps to eliminate national oppression from the people of Kordestan and ensure their national rights and just demands.

It must be stated that all the peoples living in our multinational homeland have just and legitimate demands. The proper thing for a government that is the product of this popular revolution to do is to adopt practical measures in connection with fulfilling the just and lawful demands of these peoples. Unfortunately, however, through experience we have learned that not only in all fields of our homeland's political, social, economic, and cultural life, but also with respect to the ethnic problem as well, the Islamic regime has not kept its pledge. Just as it violated the right of workers — the arms of the revolution — and threw the right of toiling farmers, whose callused hands were called title deeds, under the feet of feudalists, it also trampled on the right of our homeland's peoples, including and particularly the Kurdish people. Thus, as with the shah's despotic regime, the war of fratricide went to Kordestan.

The outcome of this erroneous and antipeople policy by the Islamic regime in Kordestan was the very destructive war of fratricide that is still going on. The Kurdish problem has been transformed into one of the painful and tragic problems in our country. The disasters that the Islamic Government has imposed on the people of Kordestan through obstinacy and stubbornness in not recognizing the ethnic rights of the Kurdish people, particularly by continuing this war, will be recorded as another document of condemnation in the list of black deeds by the Islamic regime, whose leaders must one day answer to the nation. Leaders of the Islamic regime, who have adopted the method of attaching labels and telling lies, have leveled the groundless charge of separatism against the patriotic Kurdish people. But these gentlemen are little aware that this merchandise of theirs no longer has any purchasers among the people. Our homeland's people support the Kurdish people's right and their lawful demands for the fulfillment of the right to self-government within the framework of a united Iran.

The Iranian people condemn the policy of suppressing the Kurdish people that is being pursued by the Islamic regime. They explicitly want an end to the war and fratricide in Kordestan and peace and calm to be returned to that tragedy-tricken land through recognition of the Kurdish people's ethnic rights.

Clandestine Reports on Shaykh Ragheb Harb

GF291628 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Shaykh Ragheb Harb, the terrorist clergyman of Lebanon, after grabbing $12 million in Iranian money from the clerics, has left Iran. Ragheb Harb, who is acting as a link between the Lebanese territories, (?the Iranian terrorists) of Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic, during his stay in Iran met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, (?Hadi Ghaffari), and several other clerics of the regime and discussed their future terrorist plans to be carried out through the terrorists in Lebanon. Report received at secret offices of the Free Voice of Iran indicate that the mullahs of the regime have paid him $12 million.

Rajeb Harab used to be a small-time cleric in Lebanon who led prayers in Shi'ite villages. However, after the takeover of Iran by the Khomeyni regime and organized terrorist gang, this small-time cleric carved a name for himself through working for the Khomeyni regime and has now earned the title of hojjat ol-eslam.